

Piezoelectric Data Entry Devices

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A piezoelectric transducer is provided, in which a piezoelectric cylindrical shell has conductive layers on the outside and inside of the shell, which are adapted to be connected to a signal input source. When the conductive layers are activated by the signal input source, the piezoelectric layer resonates to produce an output signal waveform, typically having a characteristic sound pressure level, from the shell structure. Alternative embodiments include a flat piezoelectric layer with opposing conductive layers, which is then formed into a shell structure. In a preferred embodiment, an inner spool is located within the shell structure, which supports and maintains the circular cross-sectional profile of the piezoelectric cylindrical transducer, to insure radial transmission of the output signal. To increase the sound pressure level, the inner spool preferably includes a recessed area, which defines a void between the inner conductive layer on the shell and the recessed area. The void acts to increase the characteristic output sound pressure level for the transducer. In marking and erasing implement embodiments, one or more piezoelectric transducers are located on a data entry device, and are either used alone, or in conjunction with second output transmitters, such as infrared transmitters, to transmit repeated signals from the data entry device to a receiver, which can be used to accurately determine the location of the pointing tip of the data entry device, in relation to an electronic tablet or white board.

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